

Union Calendar No. 449

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4167

[Report No. 114–579]

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 2015

Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. CULBERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

MAY 23, 2016

Additional sponsors: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. OLSON, Mr. O’ROURKE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BARR, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. VELA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. KING of Iowa

MAY 23, 2016

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on December 3, 2015]

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9–1–1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Kari’s Law Act of*
 5 *2016”.*

6 **SEC. 2. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYS-**
 7 **TEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.**

8 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Communications*
 9 *Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding*
 10 *at the end the following:*

11 **“SEC. 721. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE**
 12 **SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.**

13 *“(a) SYSTEM MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE,*
 14 *AND LEASE.—A person engaged in the business of manufac-*
 15 *turing, importing, selling, or leasing multi-line telephone*
 16 *systems may not manufacture or import for use in the*
 17 *United States, or sell or lease or offer to sell or lease in*
 18 *the United States, a multi-line telephone system, unless*
 19 *such system is pre-configured such that, when properly in-*
 20 *stalled in accordance with subsection (b), a user may di-*
 21 *rectly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station equipped*
 22 *with dialing facilities, without dialing any additional*
 23 *digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-access*
 24 *code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of whether the user is*

1 *required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for*
2 *other calls.*

3 “(b) *SYSTEM INSTALLATION, MANAGEMENT, AND OP-*
4 *ERATION.*—A person engaged in the business of installing,
5 *managing, or operating multi-line telephone systems may*
6 *not install, manage, or operate for use in the United States*
7 *such a system, unless such system is configured such that*
8 *a user may directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station*
9 *equipped with dialing facilities, without dialing any addi-*
10 *tional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-*
11 *access code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of whether the*
12 *user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-*
13 *fix for other calls.*

14 “(c) *ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.*—A person engaged in the
15 *business of installing, managing, or operating multi-line*
16 *telephone systems shall, in installing, managing, or oper-*
17 *ating such a system for use in the United States, configure*
18 *the system to provide a notification to a central location*
19 *at the facility where the system is installed or to another*
20 *person or organization regardless of location, if the system*
21 *is able to be configured to provide the notification without*
22 *an improvement to the hardware or software of the system.*

23 “(d) *EFFECT ON STATE LAW.*—Nothing in this section
24 *is intended to alter the authority of State commissions or*
25 *other State or local agencies with jurisdiction over emer-*

1 *gency communications, if the exercise of such authority is*
 2 *not inconsistent with this Act.*

3 “(e) *ENFORCEMENT.*—*This section shall be enforced*
 4 *under title V, except that section 501 applies only to the*
 5 *extent that such section provides for the punishment of a*
 6 *fine.*

7 “(f) *MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM DEFINED.*—*In*
 8 *this section, the term ‘multi-line telephone system’ has the*
 9 *meaning given such term in section 6502 of the Middle*
 10 *Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C.*
 11 *1471).’.*

12 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by sub-*
 13 *section (a) shall apply beginning on the date that is 2 years*
 14 *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.”.

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